

COMMEMORATIVE 50-YEAR EDITION



Lincoln Children's

ZOOtracks



1965 Leo the Lion
Zoo Founder, Arnott Folsom
with Sandy Janssen, Age 3



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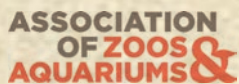
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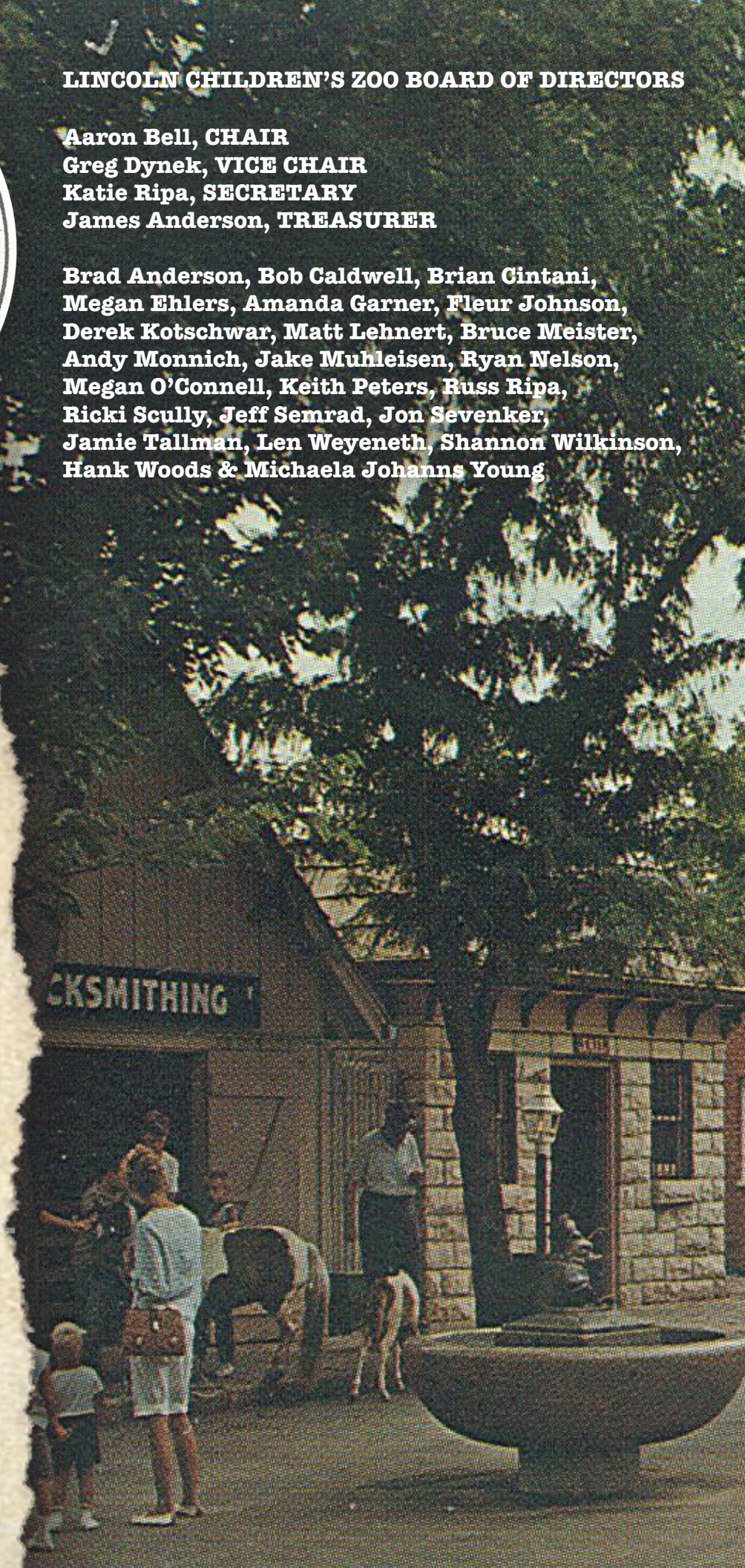


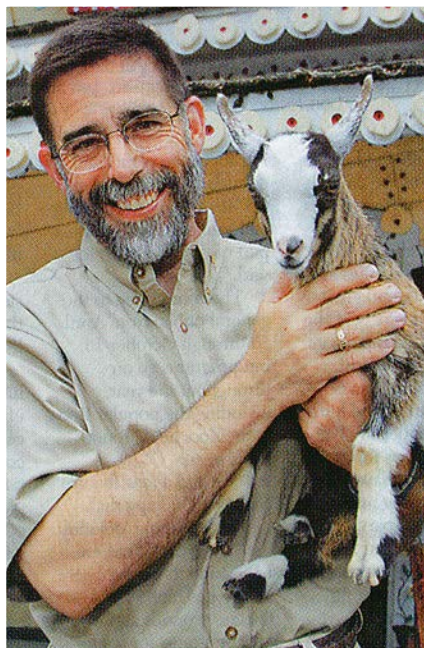
The Lincoln Children's Zoo is accredited
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“We won’t settle, Children’s Zoo will be the nation’s finest.”

William O. Dobler | Editor of *Lincoln Star*, June 1961

As we celebrate our 50th year, I can’t help but think of the quote by Mr. Dobler. It is what our founder, Arnott Folsom, had in mind when Lincoln Children’s Zoo opened in 1965, and it is something I have always thought of during my 29 years of being with the Zoo.

For the past 50 years I truly believe we have been one of the finest zoos in the nation for children. Looking forward, we continue to set high goals and strive to be the very best. That is what this special issue of *Zootracks* is about: reflecting on our past and celebrating the present.

For me, its always been and always will be about the connection with the individuals in our community. Individuals who came together with Mr. Folsom to support and build the Zoo, individuals who pass through our gates with their families building new memories and individuals of future generations who will continue to support and make our Zoo one of the nation’s finest.

Our accomplishments over the past 50 years are a result of your support. We’ve saved endangered animals, inspired and entertained families, impacted global conservation efforts, given hope to children in hospitals and most of all connected people with nature. All of this has been made possible through you and our amazing community. You are the foundation of our Zoo and what we do; we are only the caretakers.

I hope you enjoy diving into our past, recounting fond memories and getting a glimpse of what is to come here at Lincoln Children’s Zoo.

Thank you for 50 years of loyalty and support,

John Chapo | President & CEO, Lincoln Children’s Zoo



LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO

OUR 50-YEAR JOURNEY

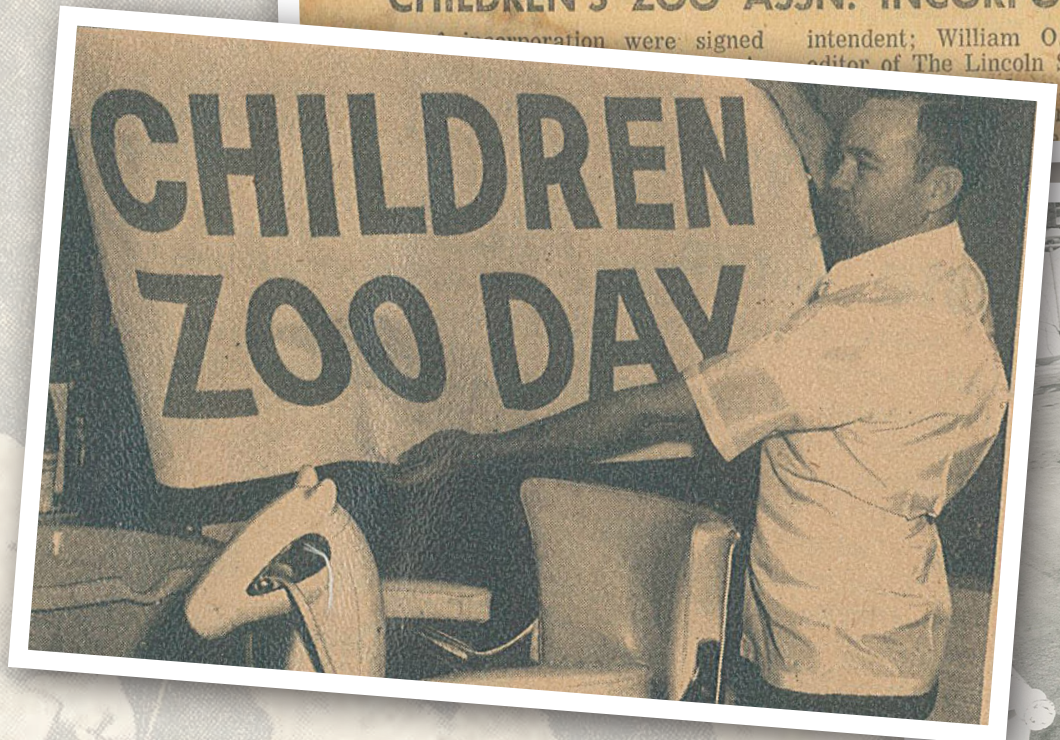
Over 50 years ago, a community came together with the vision and dream of creating one of the best zoos in the nation. Today, Lincoln Children's Zoo has garnered national and worldwide attention by saving endangered animals, being a global leader in youth education, creating innovative outreach programs and changing the way people interact with animals. Few people outside of the founders could have imagined how far the Zoo has come in half a century.

Arnott's Idea

On June 11, 1959 Lincoln Children's Zoo was officially formed. The articles of incorporation were signed by James Ager, city parks superintendent; William O. Dobler, editor of *Lincoln Star*; Arnott Folsom, Zoo founder; Mrs. L. A. Enersen, George Holmes and Bennett S. Martin.

The goal of Lincoln Children's Zoo was to create a premier tourist attraction in Lincoln. The Zoo would focus on up-close interactions with nature. At the time of the incorporation, James Ager said, "The real significance of the project is the kinship and understanding it will foster between children and animals."

Support for the Zoo was outstanding from the beginning. Donations came from individuals, businesses, non-profit organizations and local children. The city's barber shops donated all of one day's proceeds to the Zoo, local Boy Scout Troops held fundraisers and the Lincoln Country Club held a special charity golf tournament featuring Arnold Palmer and Gary Player. The Lincoln community had come together like never before to support the Zoo!



Opening Day

On July 21, 1965 Lincoln Children's Zoo opened its gates to awaiting Lincoln families. The Zoo featured many exciting animals, including monkeys, tortoises and reptiles. This was also the first time the public was able to encounter Leo the Paper Eating Lion, Zoo Town featuring the iconic Crooked House and Stegosaurus fountain.

Word spread quickly about the newly opened Zoo and just days later on July 25, over 4,200 people visited. People loved the beautiful gardens, the animal interactions and the friendly Zoo staff. On September 19, 1966, Mrs. Ray Rivett penned a letter to the editor of the *Omaha World Herald* praising the new Zoo. "I would like to say how lucky Nebraska is to have such a delightful zoo for children."



The Next Chapter

In 1971, Arnott Folsom passed away. He remained active with the Zoo until his death, reaching out to community leaders seeking funding to create a better zoo experience. His legacy along with the other founders would not be forgotten as the Zoo moved into its next chapter.

Later in 1971, one of the first education programs at the Zoo was introduced, called Jr. Zookeepers. The Ark was also launched, a community outreach program that brought animals to organizations throughout town. Both programs continue today and have grown in size. Over 2,000 youth participate each year in educational programs and the Zoo continues to reach out to schools and retirement communities.

The 1970s would also see rare marmosets and Geoffroy's cats added to the Zoo family. The animal adoption program was also created.



LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO

OUR 50-YEAR JOURNEY

The 80s and 90s

In 1986, Lincoln Children's Zoo hired a new president, John Chapo. A native of Indiana, Chapo began work to create new exhibits and expand the Zoo. One of his first duties was overseeing the 25th anniversary of the Zoo train in 1988. That same year, the train welcomed its 650,000th rider and Zoo Camps began to occur annually.

The Zoo celebrated 25 years of being part of the community in 1990. Plans began on a new entrance plaza, administration office, café, gift shop and train depot. Shortly after the new building additions, Chapo added nearly 1,000 feet of track to the Zoo's railroad.

In 1995, the Zoo began the biggest makeover in its history. Over \$3.6 million was raised to build homes for camels, baboons, leopards, bears and otters. The renovation was completed a year later in 1996. "Arnott believed in always adding new animals, new plants and trees to make the Zoo better every year," Chapo said.

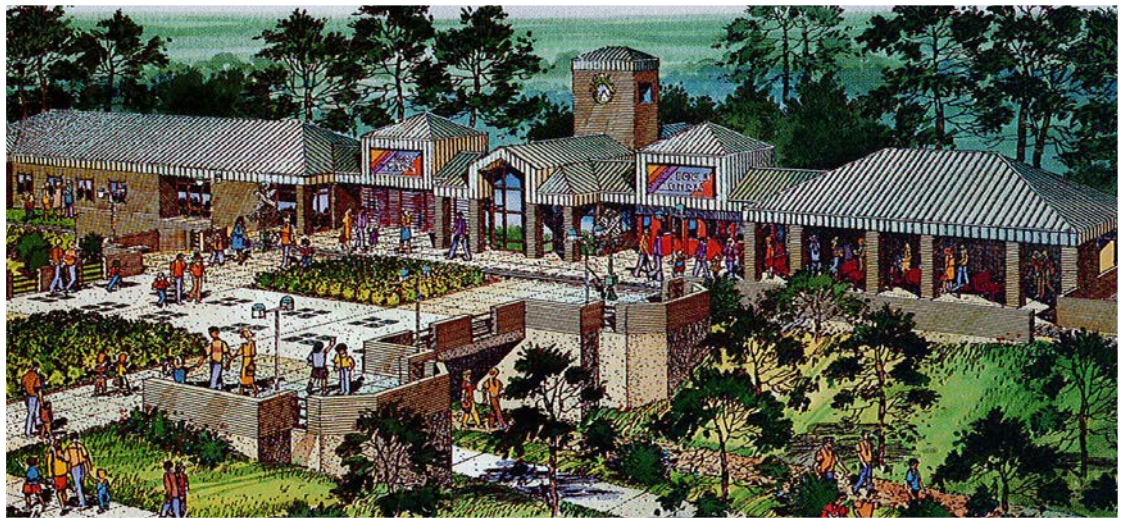
In 1996, the Zoo worked with Lincoln Public Schools to create the first Science Focus program in Lincoln. Still today, Zoo School is a place where students can learn firsthand in a real-world classroom. Students have the opportunity to see animals and learn about nature and science in the most unique classrooms in Lincoln.

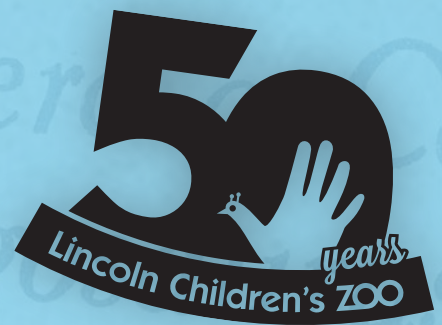
A New Era

The new millennium brought renewed life to Lincoln Children's Zoo. The Zoo became one of the world leaders in saving the rare Matschie's tree kangaroos; First Lady Laura Bush presented John Chapo and the Zoo with a national award at the White House; and the Zoo's global impact has received national and international attention.



At left — John Chapo, zoo director, with a macaw. . . "I've enjoyed the challenge since coming here as director in 1986 — and I don't want to leave."



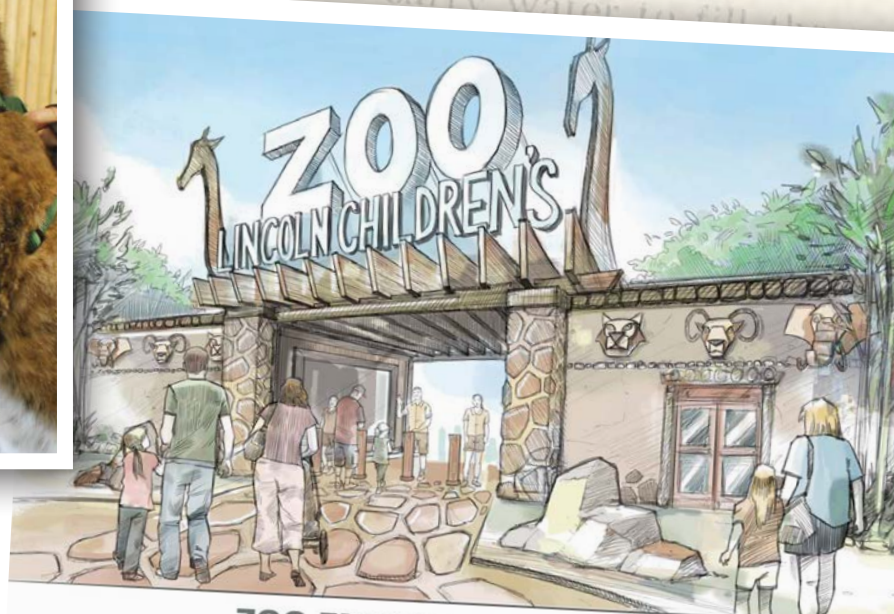


In February of 2012, film crews from NBC News arrived at the Zoo to feature National Geographic and local photographer Joel Sartore. Sartore's Photo Ark project, which started at Lincoln Children's Zoo, is being showcased nationally. The following year, the Git-R-Done Foundation and the Zoo joined forces to create Zoofari with Larry the Cable Guy, a video series featuring Larry and Zoo animals. Zoofari DVDs are given to children in hospitals across North America free of charge. Larry and Zoofari were featured on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*.

In 2014, rare red panda cubs were born and the Zoo held a nationwide naming contest. The cute cubs received the names Carson and Willa in honor of Nebraska's own Johnny Carson and Willa Cather. The red pandas were featured on CNN, ABC News, *USA Today*, *Time Magazine* and *Buzzfeed*. The national attention continued in 2015 when National Geographic Channel filmed an episode of *Unlikely Animal Friends* featuring Liv, the hand-raised baby wallaby.

What's Next?

The dream of Arnott and other community leaders who built Lincoln Children's Zoo has not only lived on for 50 years, it has flourished beyond anyone's imagination. So what is John Chapo's answer to what happens next? "As long as there are children who want to experience nature and animals, and as long as we have the support of the community, we will be here. Someday our footprint may expand, but if it does, our mission will never change. We are here to enrich lives through firsthand interaction with living things."



ZOO ENTRANCE CONCEPT

LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO TIMELESS TREASURES

Although the Zoo has seen many changes and additions, some icons still call the Zoo home, just as they did on opening day. Leo the Lion, the Iron Horse train, the crooked house and the Galapagos tortoise statue are considered some of the Zoo's timeless treasures.

But most importantly, the Zoo has always been committed to bringing people closer to animals and nature through firsthand interaction.

"People who visited the Zoo 50 years ago are returning and bringing their grandchildren," said President John Chapo. "There's an interaction here between kids and animals that you just can't find anywhere else. Our Zoo visitors create lifelong memories and continue to build new memories with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

The Zoo immediately set an example for firsthand interaction with animals. When the Zoo opened, the highlight of its attractions was riding on the back of Galapagos tortoises. The original Zoo logo also had an image of a young boy sitting on a Galapagos tortoise. While today children do not ride the tortoises, they can relive the old favorite by sitting atop a 300 pound, 3-foot tall bronze replica Galapagos tortoise statue. The statue was donated by the family of Dean H. Petersen, mayor of Lincoln when the Zoo opened in 1965. The statue is located near the tortoise exhibit.



Leo the Paper Eating Lion, Dinah the Stegosaurus and the crooked house are attractions at the Zoo that every visitor cherishes, no matter their age. Kids still call Leo by name, eagerly feeding him scraps of paper to help keep the Zoo free of litter. Parents and grandparents also recall feeding Leo during their time as kids at the Zoo. "Everyone loves Leo," said Chapo.



▲ Leo the paper-eating lion has returned to the Folsom Children's Zoo to devour garbage provided by visitors such as 5-year-old Kelsey Reifert of Lincoln. Leo, who was beginning to show his age after three decades as a zoo favorite, was refurbished this spring by folks from Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Lincoln Tent and Awning and Salt Valley Signs. In addition to welcoming back Leo, the zoo at 27th and B streets is switching to its summer hours beginning Saturday. It will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

GAIL FOLDA/Lincoln Journal Star



As for Dinah, founder Arnott Folsom had an interest in dinosaurs and knew children did, too. Folsom designed the dinosaur skeleton to stand as a fountain near the entrance to the Zoo in 1965. Today, she remains present as children learn firsthand in a dinosaur dig, standing over a sand pit where guests can excavate "dinosaur bones" in the sand.



Zoo Plans Prehistoric 'Stegosaurus

with spurting foun-
tand in a pool in the

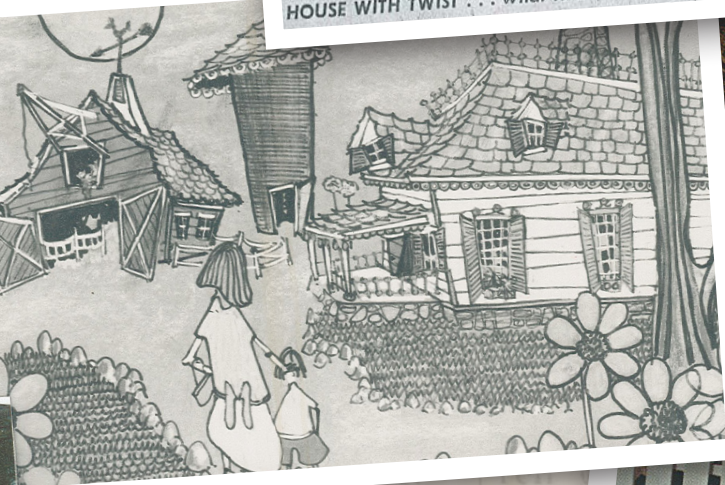
roamed Nebraska plains millions of years ago. It is one of 25 projects proposed by the Lincoln Children's Zoo Association.

LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO TIMELESS TREASURES

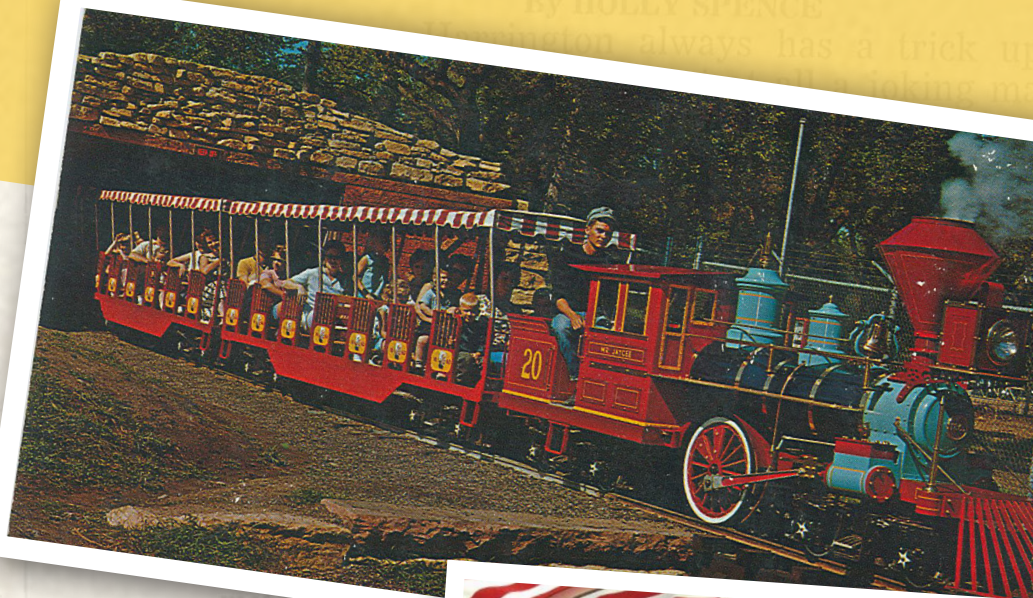
And yes, the crooked house is still standing, despite all odds. Originally located in Zoo Town, the crooked house has been repainted and renovated, but is still a favorite place for birthday parties and hide-and-go-seek games. The crooked house was built to look like a caricature, as if it had just popped out of a child's fairy tale book, come to life at the Zoo.



HOUSE WITH TWIST . . . what Recreation Director Lewis wanted.



Perhaps the most well known hidden treasure is our Iron Horse train and Z.O. & O. Railroad. The Iron Horse took its first passengers in August 1963, two years before the Zoo opened. Tickets were sold to benefit the construction of the Zoo and riders could catch a glimpse of the Zoo's progress as they circled the Zoo property. In just two years, more than 135,000 passengers had ridden the train and helped raise funds for construction and animal care.



John Mahoney (center) gives his brother, Noel, a boost onto the train at Children's Zoo. Another brother, David, watches. They're sons of Mr. and Mrs. Don Mahoney, 5800 L.



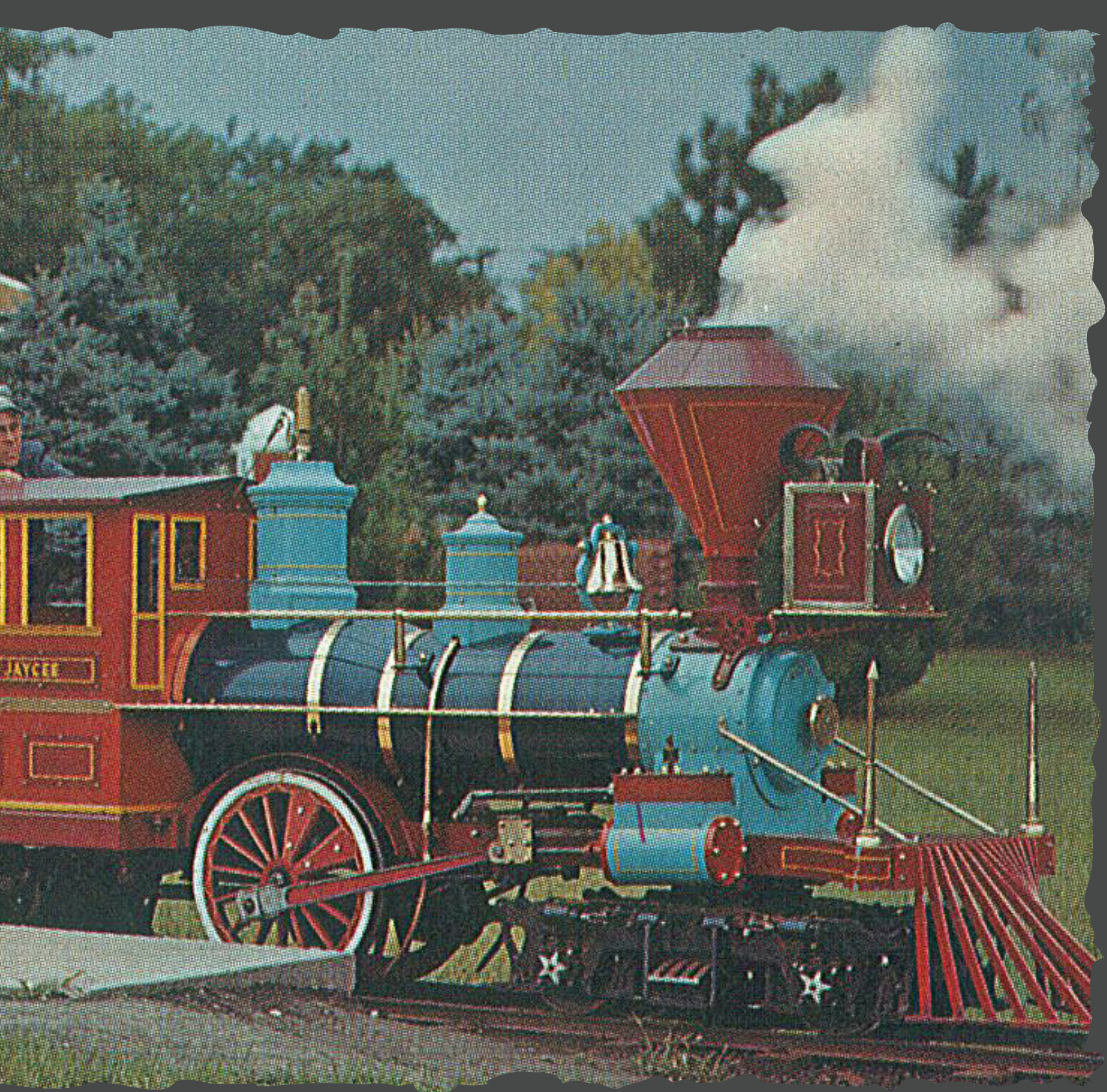
As much as the Zoo has expanded, the train tracks have seen just as much action. In 1991 a train depot was built and in 1992 a new tunnel was added to the train's route. Additionally, in 1994 the Z.O. & O. Railroad was expanded by 1,000 feet. Guests rode the original Iron Horse until 2002, when a new train was purchased to replace the old.

Train rides remain one of the most popular attractions at the Zoo, as the Iron Horse has carried over 6 million passengers.





EST.
THE IRON HORSE
LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO



1963
SE RAILROAD
LDREN'S ZOO

LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO

WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Folsom and Ager

Creating Lincoln Children's Zoo was a community effort. It took countless individuals to turn an idea into reality. However, two people were the driving force behind the concept. Arnott Folsom, the Zoo's founder, loved nature and animals and believed children should have the opportunity to get an up-close experience with them. James Ager, City of Lincoln Parks & Recreation superintendent, believed in the importance of the Zoo and what it would mean to the community.

Golden Lion Tamarins

In the late 1980s, zookeepers began projects to reintroduce the critically endangered golden lion tamarin back to the wild. Zookeepers created a breeding program to increase their population in captivity. Once the population was large enough, zookeepers moved the tamarin from Lincoln back to the wild in Brazil. This program has been attributed with saving the golden lion tamarin from extinction.

Marmoset population doubles in week's time

There's been a population explosion in one Lincoln community, where census figures have doubled in about a week's time.

First there were four, then six, and now eight golden lion marmosets at the Folsom Children's Zoo, 2800 A St. One of the rare Brazilian mammals gave birth to twins last weekend, and the zoo's other female bore twins last week.

Four animals, two males and two females, have been on loan from the National Zoo since Oct. 31, according to Laurie Trechsel, the zoo's curator of animal health. The offspring also belong to the National Zoo.

Trechsel said zoo workers "soft of had an idea, but we weren't sure," that the newest mother was pregnant, judging by her chunky abdomen during the last six weeks. The animals, which resemble tiny toy lions, have a six-month gestation period, she said.

She estimated that 300 marmosets exist worldwide, with about 50 are in captivity.

The miniature lions are a popular zoo attraction and even more so since the babies were born, she said.



Staff photo by Web Ray

while one twin nestles on her back.

F rare births at zoo

th rate in-
ales were
y the Na-

in as many weeks, he said.

Born recently were a snow macaque, a 40-pound primate, related to the rhesus monkey, which lives in northern Asia and



Matschie's tree kangaroo peeks out of its mother's pouch at Folsom Children's Zoo. The joey, born March 9, is just now poking its head
garoo baby takes first peek at world
will be spent in its mother's pouch for the first eight to 10 months of
ANDERSEN
Journal Star

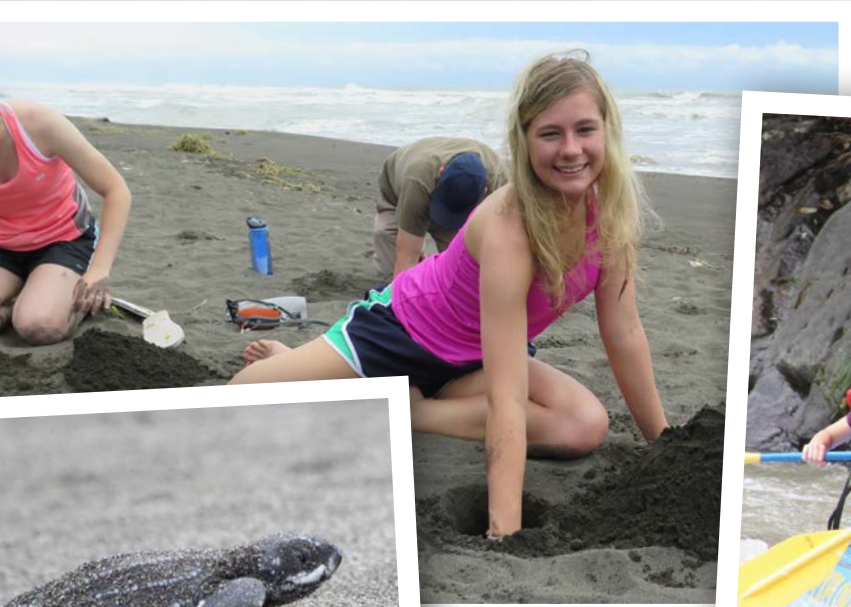
Matschie's Tree Kangaroo

The Matschie's Tree Kangaroo of Papua New Guinea is an adorable marsupial that unfortunately is dwindling in numbers. Less than 50 remain in captivity and their natural habitat is shrinking. In 2004, Milla, the Zoo's tree kangaroo, gave birth to one of three joeys born that year. Since then, she has given birth to six more joeys, including twins in 2009. Milla's offspring account for nearly one-fourth of joeys born in zoos over the past decade.



Adventures with Lincoln Children's Zoo

In 2012, the Zoo began an education program that would take teenagers across the world to complete conservation work. Each year, Zoo staff and a group of youth travel to destinations where they gain hands-on experience saving sea turtles, working in marine labs and discovering new cultures. Program destinations include Florida, Costa Rica and Belize.



LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Zoofari with Larry the Cable Guy

A partnership was formed in 2013 between Lincoln Children's Zoo and the Git-R-Done Foundation to bring zoo animals in the form of videos to children in hospitals. These videos, called Zoofari with Larry the Cable Guy, were filmed at Lincoln Children's Zoo. These free DVDs have been distributed to over 400 hospitals and over 100,000 patients have had the opportunity to watch them.



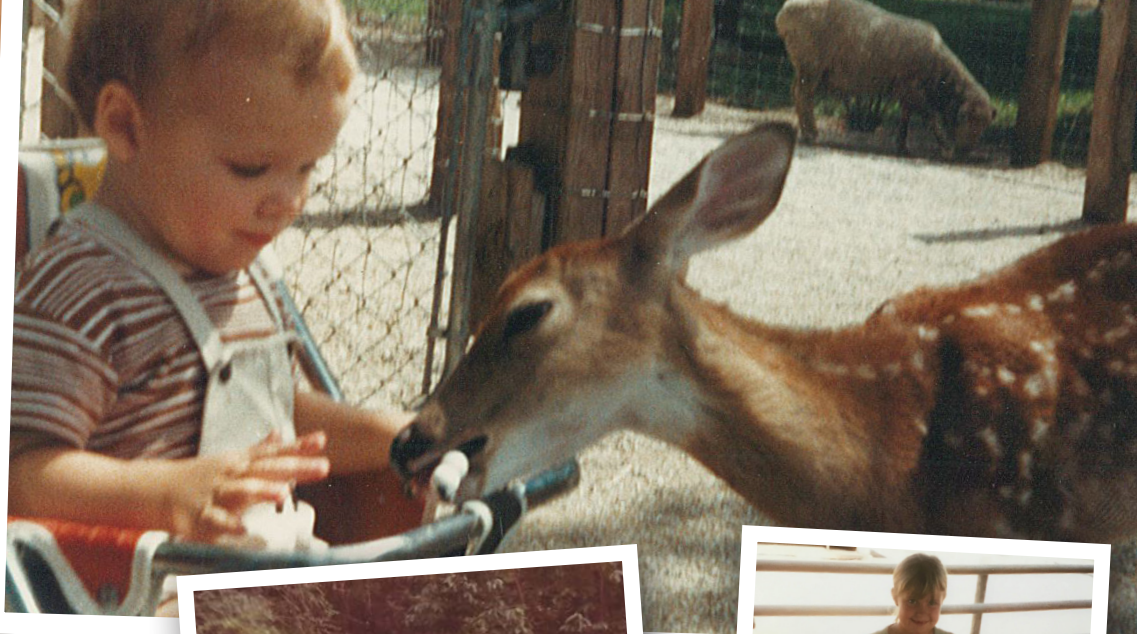
Liv the Wallaby

One morning in the summer of 2014, zookeepers discovered a newborn tammar wallaby joey on the ground of the exhibit. This joey was clinging to life after falling from the mother's pouch. Zookeepers rescued the joey and took her to the Zoo's animal care center. Unable to return to the mother's pouch, baby Liv, as she had been named, was cared for by zookeepers in a makeshift pouch they would wear 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Liv grew to be a healthy wallaby and rejoined her family in 2015. Her story was featured on National Geographic Channel's *Unlikely Animal Friends*.



Our Guests

For the past 50 years Lincoln Children's Zoo has made a world of difference in conservation, youth programs, children in hospitals and more, but those who make it all possible are the ones who support the Zoo. These photos were submitted by people who have made memories at the Zoo and are as much of the Zoo's 50-year story as anyone or any accomplishment. This is just a small sample of those who have passed through the Zoo's gates and in their own way made a world of difference.



LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO

LOOK HOW WE'VE GROWN

1959

Lincoln Children's Zoo is incorporated.



1963

The Iron Horse train begins operation to give riders views of the Zoo construction that is progressing.



1965

Zoo opens for the first time on July 21!



1965

The Steward Family donates money to build an otter pool and purchase three Canadian Otters.



1965

The Post Office opens in Zoo Town.



1965

The Zoo Ark program begins, bringing animals to schools and the elderly.



1967

Zoo Town becomes popular destination for community parties.



1972

Wild Wednesdays begin. Zoo stays open 'til 8 p.m.

1975

Jr. Zookeeper Youth Volunteer program begins.



1976

Halloween Hullabaloo, now known as Boo at the Zoo, the annual trick-or-treat event starts.



1977

Animal Adoption program begins.

1978

Animal Kingdom opens and is the first year-round exhibit.

1979

Zoo renamed to Folsom Children's Zoo.



1986

Current Zoo President, John Chapo, is hired.



1988

Zoo train celebrates its 25th anniversary.



1988

The first official Zoo Camp opens.



1960s

1970s

1980s

1990

Zoo celebrates its 25th anniversary.

1991

Zoo expands with new entrance, administration building, food stand, gift shop and train depot.



1992

A life-size American Bald Eagle nest is built.



1994

The train tracks are expanded with 1,000 feet of track added.



1996

The largest makeover in Zoo history begins. Camels, baboons, leopards, bears and otters added.



1997

LPS Science Focus Zoo School opens.

2000

Zoo celebrates its 35th anniversary.

2000

Laura's Butterfly Pavilion opens.



2001

John Chapo is named Association of Nonprofit Executives' 2000 Executive of the Year.

2002

A new train is purchased to replace the original.



2003

The Eagle Experience exhibit is opened.



2005

Zoo celebrates its 40th anniversary.

2006

The Zoo goes back to the original name Lincoln Children's Zoo.



2007

Zoo receives the National Award for Museum Science from the Institute of Museum and Library Services at the White House.



2009

Parent Magazine names Lincoln Children's Zoo one of the best zoos in the nation for children.



2012

The Zoo is featured on ABC News during a story about National Geographic Photographer Joel Sartore.

2012

Adventures by Lincoln Children's Zoo is created. A program where Zoo staff and youth travel to destinations around the world for conservation work.

2013

The Git-R-Done Foundation and the Zoo form a partnership to create Zoofari with Larry the Cable Guy.



2013

The 6 millionth guest rides the Zoo train.

2014

The Animal Encounter Stage opens.



2014

Over 200,000 people attend, making it the highest attended year in Zoo history.

2014

The Zoo's red panda cubs, Carson & Willa, are featured on Time Magazine, USA Today, CNN, ABC News, BuzzFeed and more.



2015

Zoo celebrates its 50th anniversary.

2015

Zoobilee, an event to celebrate 50 years and thank the community is announced.



1990s

2000s

2010s

LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO
50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY

Community support always has been and always will be the foundation of Lincoln Children's Zoo. Support for the Zoo comes in all forms: financial, in-kind and volunteering. It is through these areas that the Zoo has existed for 50 years and has been able to make a difference in so many people's lives.

No Tax Support

Lincoln Children's Zoo receives no tax funding from the City of Lincoln. The Zoo is one of the few in the nation to operate fully on support through donations and operational fees. "Every dollar you spend at the Zoo helps our animals, education programs and conservation efforts," Chapo said. Funds from memberships, admissions and educational programs have allowed the Zoo to save endangered animals such as the Matschie's tree kangaroo and Humboldt penguin.

Individual Donations

Donations from individuals have always been an important part of the Zoo's history. Founder Arnott Folsom and his wife were one of the first to donate by contributing \$5,000 and their legacy of generosity continues to this day. "I am amazed how generous and kind our community is. Donations from individuals have made the Zoo what it is today." Chapo said.

CHILDREN'S ZOO GETS \$17,000 ROTARY GRANT



The foundation of the Downtown Lincoln Rotary Club used \$17,000 from its annual auction to fund a series of new discovery stations at Folsom Children's Zoo, 27th and B streets. Club President Barbara Bartle (middle) said the November 2001 event at The Cornhusker raised a record total. The club had earlier targeted the zoo as the beneficiary of the evening's proceeds and guaranteed the club would provide the funding to pay for the project. John Chapo (left), the zoo's executive director, said the new discovery stations will be called a "Sensory Safari" and will be intended to provide a "hands-on" approach to learning at the zoo, using senses like sight, touch and hearing to help visitors learn about the various animals at the zoo. Lincoln Rotary Club #14 holds weekly luncheon meetings on Tuesdays at The Nebraska Club, 13th and M streets. With nearly 300 members, it is the oldest and largest club in Lincoln. The club annually supports many community service projects including a Christmas party for the poor. Ken Kray (right), president of the Rotary Club #14 Foundation, is pictured with Bartle and Chapo.



SUPPORT

Organization Donations

Financial support from businesses and organizations allow the Zoo to create programs to help thousands in the community. Children at the Zoo (CATZ) is a program that allows over 20,000 low income children and adults to visit the Zoo each year. Sensory Safari is a day where visually impaired children get the opportunity to experience the Zoo and the animals. These are just two of the ways organizational support touches the lives of thousands of families each year.

Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone of the Zoo. Each year nearly a thousand volunteers donate tens of thousands of hours helping maintain the Zoo, operate the train, work with animals and complete administrative tasks. These volunteers not only free up valuable funds but ensure the Zoo is operating at a high level for guests to enjoy their visit. When the Zoo opened in 1965, Mr.

Folsom understood the importance of volunteers. He said for Lincoln Children's Zoo to be the best in the nation it would need the best volunteers. 50 years later it is easy to argue that the Zoo has some of the best volunteers in the country.



